



Fort Sam Houston

News Leader[®]



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Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

January 3, 2002

Briefs

French Government to present commendations, Jan. 8

Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, commander, AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston, will host a ceremony honoring World War II veterans who will receive an official commendation from the French Government for their service in France. The event will be held Jan. 8, 11 a.m. at the Blesse Auditorium, Willis Hall, Bldg. 2841, corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Roads.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance begins Jan. 16

A ceremony honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Jan. 16, 10:30 to 11:30, Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road. The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Henderson, University of Oklahoma's Director of Human Relations Advanced Programs.

Consolidated end of month retirement ceremony, Jan. 29

A consolidated end of month retirement ceremony will be held Jan. 29, 7:45 at MacArthur Field, corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Roads.

Change of Responsibility for the AMEDD NCO Academy, Jan. 30

A Change of Responsibility ceremony will be held Jan. 30 at 7:45 a.m. at MacArthur Field. Outgoing commandant is Command Sgt. Maj. Zulma Santiago. Incoming commandant is Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Mathsen.



Photo by Edward Rivera

Loaded for war

The 147th Medical Logistics Battalion demonstrated the capabilities of their new Highly Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Load Handling System December 20 on Fort Sam Houston. The new system will enhance the mobility and versatility of the 147th on the battlefield. See **Load Handling System** on Page 4.

Army realigns headquarters, centralizes base operations

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

The Army will streamline its staff at the Pentagon and centralize installation management, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White announced at a Pentagon press conference on Dec. 18.

Funding for installations will come directly from the Pentagon instead of through major commands under the new centralized system, White said. He explained that this will not only standardize funding levels, but also free up the MACOMs to focus on their primary missions.

Garrison commanders will report to the

Army's assistant chief of staff for Installation Management through eight regional directors under the plan. Each of the new geographic regions will have 20-26 installations. "That's probably the most controversial part of this transformation," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Keane about eliminating MACOM staffs from the day-to-day concerns of installation management. "It dramatically changes the way we do business."

At the Pentagon, White said his Secretariat will be aligned with Army Staff directorates. The principals of each ARSTAFF element will become the military deputies to the corresponding

assistant secretary. And the principal staffs will be renamed G1 through G8. For instance, the deputy chief of staff for Personnel will answer to the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. And DCSPER will be called G1. The deputy chief of staff for Intelligence will be G2. Operations and Plans will be G3 and the deputy chief of staff for Logistics will be G4.

The director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers will be G6 and the deputy chief of staff for Programs will be G8. "By the way, the staff was organized by these

See **Realignment** on Page 3

San Antonio to host U.S. Army All-American Bowl

The Alamo City will soon play host to 74 of the nation's top high school football players in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl to be broadcast live on ESPN2.

In conjunction with the game, the most outstanding player in the country will receive the Ken Hall Trophy at a banquet hosted by the San Antonio Downtown Rotary Club.

The country's top talent will convene Jan. 5, with a kickoff tentatively set for 12:30 p.m. at Alamo Stadium, dubbed the No. 1 high school stadium in Texas by the Austin American-Statesman in 2000. Tickets are on sale at the Brought Fitness Center main desk through Jan. 4, the price is \$10.

The players, hand selected by Tom Lemming, nationally recognized

recruiting analyst of MH-18 magazine, will be split into East-West teams with a dividing line of the Mississippi River.

Rich McGuinness, president of sports marketing company Sports Link Inc., chose San Antonio as the locale for the second-annual all-star bowl because of its excellent venue and fan base.

"We are thrilled to be able to produce such a competitive, high-caliber bowl game in a city fueled by sports enthusiasts and with the support of such a valuable title sponsor, the U.S. Army," said McGuinness. "We expect an outstanding reception in the 21,047-seat stadium and look forward to building on the success of last year's game."

See **All-American Bowl** on Page 2



Anthony Arline
Madison High School, San Antonio



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Lorenzo Booker, a running back from St. Bonaventure H.S., in Hueneme, Calif.

Army, San Antonio team up to host All-American bowl

Continued from Page 1

McGuinness enlisted the support of the U.S. Army’s sports marketing agency, Starcom Sports Marketing, to secure this year’s title sponsorship.

“The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is an excellent opportunity to showcase some of the nation’s top talent, and we are excited to be a part of it,” said U.S. Army Col. Thomas Nickerson.

“These young men represent the best that this nation has to offer and we are looking forward to their performance in the premier game of the year.”

The San Antonio Downtown Rotary Club will host a banquet Jan. 4 at La Villita Assembly Building to honor the players and award the high school equivalent of the Heisman Trophy, the Ken Hall Trophy.

Named for the “Sugar Land Express,” the trophy will be given in

honor of the legendary running back, Ken Hall, who set numerous high school rushing records in the 1950s. Troy Terry, president of Hero’s Salute and sculptor of the Ken Hall Trophy, will also be present to grant the award.

Lemming will select the country’s top player from a group of six finalists. Honorary chairman and chief spokesperson of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, Herman Boone will present the Boone Trophy to the winning team.

The trophy commemorates Boone’s accomplishments in coaching the newly integrated T. C. Williams High School football team to a Virginia State championship in 1971.

Denzel Washington recently played the character of Herman Boone in Disney’s *Remember the Titans*, which chronicled the exceptional season.

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Changes to uniform policy on the horizon

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

More than 10 changes in the Army's uniform policy are currently being staffed for an update of Army Regulation 670-1.

Items being revised include hair, nails, contacts, cell phones, pagers, bloused boots, headgear, "camelbacks", desert battle-dress-uniform insignia, regimental distinctive insignia, physical fitness uniform wear and pregnancy, the explosive ordnance detachment badge and the black mess uniform.

Other items that will not undergo a policy change will have their wording changed to give a clearer picture of what the policy is, said Master Sgt. Kittie Messman, the uniform policy noncommissioned officer at the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Items that will be re-worded include those governing tattoos and body piercing, identification bracelets, civilian bags, and uniform policy based on religious practices.

Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, was last revised in 1992, but in order to keep up with the pace of changing times the regulation is periodically reviewed.

"The regulation has to change with time," Messman said. "If not we'll still be wearing uniforms from the Civil War."

Until the revised regulation is signed by the secretary of the Army, Messman said, the regulation last updated in 1992 is still in effect.

A new policy regarding cell phones and pagers is one addition to the regulation that was generated by technology, Messman said.

Under the upcoming regulation only one electric device will be authorized for wear on the uniform in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4 X 2 X 1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these

criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, bag or in some other carrying container.

At one time, cell phones and pagers were only common practice for people in the medical field, but now the Army has downsized, and people are doing more than one job at the same time, said Lt. Col. Margaret Flott, chief of the Human Factors and Policy Division for DCSPER. Soldiers have to be able to go out and do their jobs without being tied to their desk, she said.

Messman is the principal advisor for changes to the uniform policy, but she said the changes that are being staffed came from recommendations.

"We depend a lot on leadership in the field," Messman said. "They know the young soldiers of today. I get their input on when it's time to allow something that wasn't allowed before, or when something starts becoming a distraction and needs to be addressed."

The policy change authorizing braids and cornrows is an example of items that were once seen as inappropriate in the workplace, but now considered conservative and businesslike, Messman said. And the policy clarification that prohibits two-toned manicured nails is an example of a growing trend that has no place in the work area, she added.

People usually have the hardest time accepting the grooming policies, Messman said. "We don't want to rob people of their individuality," Messman said. "But the Army has never professed to be a leader in fashion. Our goal is to create a conservative, professional image and some of the more trendy styles will not accomplish that goal."

Highlights of the changes are:

Dreadlocks are prohibited for all soldiers. Prohibited hair dye colors include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors. Applied colors must look natural on the individual soldier. Women are authorized to wear braids and cornrows; baldness is

authorized for males, either natural or shaved.

Males are not authorized to wear nail polish and they must keep nails trimmed to the tip of the finger. Females must keep nails trimmed no longer than 1/4 inch, as measured from the fingertip. Two-tone or multi-tone manicures and nail designs are prohibited. Prohibited nail polish colors include bright fire-engine red, khaki or camouflage, purple, gold, blue, black, white, and neon colors.

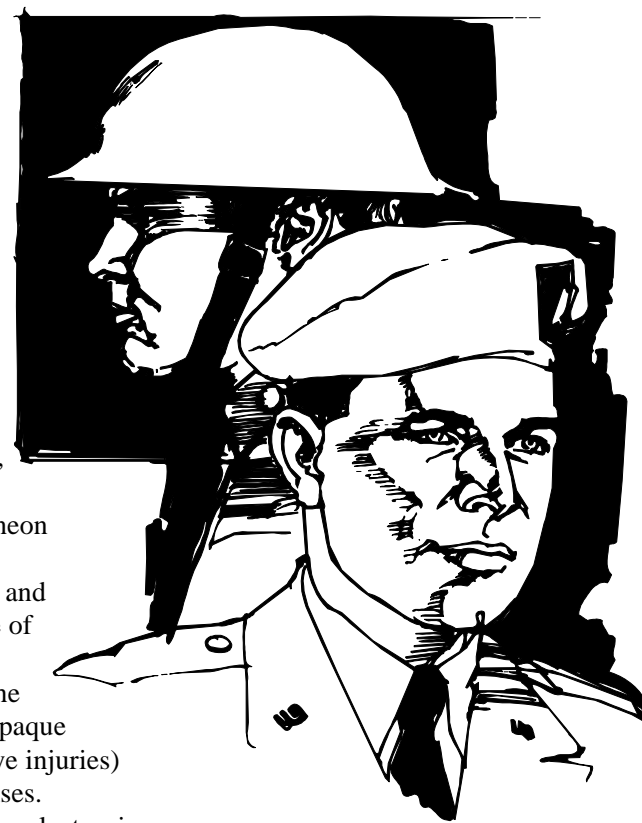
Tinted or colored contacts, and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited, as they are not medically required. The only contacts authorized are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear corrective vision lenses.

Cell Phones and Pagers: One electronic device is authorized for wear on the uniform, in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4x2x1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, in a bag, or in some other carrying container.

Bloused Boots. Soldiers will not blouse boots any lower than the third eyelet from the top of the boot.

Males are exempt from wearing headgear to evening social events (after retreat). Black beret: The Army flash is the only flash authorized, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted (i.e., OPFOR) before June 14, 2001.

Commanders may authorize the use of a camouflage hydration system (commonly called "camelbacks") for field duty or on work details. Soldiers will not use these devices in a garrison



environment, unless directed by the commander.

Sew-on insignia is now authorized for the desert BDUs; colors are khaki and spice brown combinations. Soldiers may wear the same insignia and awards as are worn on the woodland camouflage battle dress uniform.

Soldiers who are pregnant should wear the PT uniform until the uniform becomes too small or too uncomfortable. At that time, pregnant soldiers may wear civilian equivalent workout attire. Leaders will not require soldiers to purchase larger PT uniforms to accommodate the pregnancy.

Wear of the RDI on the AG 415 class B shirt is optional. The category of the EOD Badge is changed from group 5 to group 3. A wear out date for the black mess uniform is Sept. 30, 2003.

(Editor's note: Last portion of article copied from DCSPER information paper.)

Army announces realignment plans to streamline operations

Continued from Realignment on Page 1
names by Gen. Pershing," White said, "and then again by Gen. Marshall... This is going back to Army tradition."

White said the realignment will streamline the Secretariat. He said that while the Army in the field has been cut 40 percent over the past decade or more, the Secretariat has grown. He pledged to "put the Secretariat on a diet." White said he expects 700 to 800 positions to be eliminated in the realignment, but said the purpose was not to cut people, but to streamline the decision-making process. In fact, he said the military positions eliminated at the Pentagon will be redistributed to the field. The money saved by eliminating redundant civilian positions will help fund priority Army requirements, he said. White said about 10,000 positions could be transferred to major commands under the realignment.

The transformation will create a new Contracting Command and place recruiting under an Accessions command as part of TRADOC, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. Information management will be

centralized under a single portal, Keane said, referring to Army Knowledge Online. White said one thrust of the realignment is to "centralize and clean up the lines of authority where there have been too many cooks in the stove." Another goal, he said, was to realize efficiencies.

The centralized installation management could yield economies of mass for base utilities, housing and other functions, officials said. The realignment plan was based on a four-month study, White said, and is part of the larger Army Transformation that began in 1999. "No successful corporate headquarters in the world today is organized the way we are in headquarters, Department of the Army," White said when he initiated the review in late June. "We currently have two separate staffs, often performing some of the same or similar functions."

Under the realignment plan, the Secretariat and Army Staff organizations will function as a unified staff in executing Army policy, planning and resource management responsibilities, while maintaining their separate

and discrete identities as required by Title 10.

"We have stopped short" of physically combining the ARSTAFF and Secretariat, White said.

A part of the realignment, though, will be the formation of an Army Executive Office, consisting of the secretary of the Army, chief of staff of the Army and vice chief of staff of the Army. That office will eliminate two separate decision-making channels, according to the plan.

The realignment will also more fully integrate the Army National Guard and Army Reserve into key positions of authority to better accommodate key issues and concerns of all components with a single integrated staff, officials said.

"We are one Army today," White said, adding that 18,000 reserve-component soldiers are mobilized "doing everything from homeland security to deployed in CENTCOM," referring to the U.S. Central Command, responsible for waging the war on terrorists in Afghanistan. The realignment will begin this month

and actually be implemented next summer, White said. The U.S. Army Audit Agency will monitor the implementation and account for alignment resources.

A task force consisting of about 30 senior civilian and military members conducted the study. They were tasked to examine all aspects of HQDA functions, to include: acquisition, headquarters management, human resources, information management, logistics, installation and facilities management, operations, training, intelligence, requirements development, resource management, external affairs and civil works. Specifically, the task force was to recommend staff realignments to enhance effectiveness by assigning responsibility and authority within functional areas more judiciously; eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort; optimizing the use of technology; and incorporating better business practices and organizational concepts that have proven successful in major corporations where appropriate, said officials.

The resulting streamlined Secretariat staff will retain

responsibility for formulating policy and providing strategic direction, as well as overseeing the execution of Army plans and programs. The Army Staff will continue to prepare plans, supervise their execution and coordinate activities Army-wide in support of Title 10 functions and combatant command missions.

"The level of individual performance and dedication is very high, but we need to ensure those great individual efforts yield the best result," White said last June. "My goal is to reshape the two staffs into a more fully integrated headquarters that maintains civilian oversight and runs much more efficiently."

A similar review of Army organizations below HQDA level is scheduled to be completed by next spring, officials said. At the press conference, Secretary of the Air Force Jim Roche also announced plans to realign the Air Staff with the Air Force Secretariat. (Editor's note: ARNEWS senior correspondent Joe Burlas contributed to this article.)

A Co. 147th Medical Logistics Battalion sets the standard

By 2nd Lt. Degratious Jenkins
Special to the News Leader

Neither rain nor sleet nor knee deep mud was able to stop the highly motivated soldiers of A Company, 147th Medical Logistics Battalion from completing their force protection mission during a recent field training exercise.

Sixty-five members of A Company deployed to Camp Bullis in preparation for the unit's transition to the 591st Medical Logistics Company, as part of the Army's medical reengineering initiative. Newly appointed commander Capt. Jonathan Goode and 1st Sgt. Widisvaldo Roman-Baez used the opportunity to assess their unit's deployment and redeployment procedures and force protection.

Sgt. Mark S. Person said, "It's given soldiers a look at what the 591st Medical Logistics Company is going to look like." The days of the old medical logistics that were supported by battalion assets are coming to an end. The new MRI medical logistics companies have the capability to stand-alone and support a division with medical supplies, medical maintenance, and optical fabrication.

Alpha's primary focus for this field training exercise was force protection, the unit's ability to defend them. ...And believe me force protection is what A Co did to the standard. Spc. Kenneth J. Smart said, "We used a lot of concertina wire, even though it was hard work, it will pay off during war." Try five strands of Concertina wire. Try twelve armpit deep fighting positions dug with extraction devices, shovels and "tough human backs". Try eighteen inches of overhead cover strong enough to maintain the weight of a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle. Every soldier from the lowest ranking private to the company commander had the opportunity to show



Courtesy photo

Spc. Jose Vasquez crouches in a foxhole while manning his sector of the perimeter.

other members how much heart and perseverance they had.

The soldiers of A Company worked very hard during this field training exercise, but this is only the crawl phase of this transition. In the future, tents will have to go up a lot quicker. Each section will have to perform their various functions. The logistics support platoon will need to perform their supply and re-supply mission, the medical maintenance

will set up and conduct their mission, and the optical section will make glasses.

Eventually the entire company will have to be trained and ready to deploy to any part of the world. There are more field training exercises and Army Training Evaluation Program to come for A Company. The first is a logistics support exercise in January then an ARTEP in February.

This exercise was a chance for A

Company soldiers to pull together, work on team building skills and show they have what it takes to defend each other in a combat situation. Sgt. Alain S. Sohna said, "This FTX was a good learning experience for those who have never been to the field with the 147th. It also gave them a chance to get their hands dirty and bond with some of the veterans of the company."

147th gets new load handling system

Story and photos by Edward Rivera
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Showing off its newest equipment, the 147th Medical Logistics Battalion demonstrated the capabilities of their new Highly Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Load Handling System Dec. 20 on Fort Sam Houston. The new system, the first to be delivered to an Army Medical Department unit will enhance the mobility and versatility of the 147th on the battlefield.

The system is comprised of a truck, trailer, container-handling unit and a self-contained hydraulic arm will allow for distribution of medical materiel and equipment providing the ability to deploy forward with their international organization standardization shelters, refrigerated containers, and containerized medical supplies and equipment.

According to Lt. Col. Christopher Harrington, commander 147th Medical Logistics Battalion, the HEMTT-LHS now requires one trained soldier approximately six minutes to attach and displace a container where it once normally took a team of six well-trained soldiers one hour to attach and move a single container.

Previously the dolly sets' maximum payload was about 7.5 tons, today the system with its companion trailer, can transport two containers each weighing up to 11 tons. In addition to the increased payload capacity, the HEMTT-LHS can



Spc. Jose Torres Luna and Spc. Noe Balderas load a MILVAN onto the HEMTT-LHS.

be driven over very rough terrain, which was not the case before.

With better equipment and trained soldiers to work it, the 147th is ready to do its medical logistic support mission in the battlefields of tomorrow.



Spc. Gabriel Carreon looks in the mirror for instructions while loading a MILVAN onto the HEMTT-LHS.

Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) undergoes changes

The LES will have new areas to reflect the members’ involvement in the Thrift Savings Plan. These blocks are located directly above the “Remarks” area of the LES. The four entitlement categories are: Base Pay, Special Pay, Incentive Pay and Bonus Pay. There will be two new blocks for each of four entitlement categories. The blocks that contain the word “Rate” will reflect the percentage rate of the monthly entitlement the service member elects to contribute. The blocks that contain the word “Current” will reflect the dollar amount that has been designated by the service member. This option has not been finalized yet, when this option is activated, the service member will be allowed to select a specific dollar value instead of a percentage.

There will be new blocks on the LES to advise the member of their TSP deductions, amount deferred and amounts exempt. The “TSP YTD (year-to-date) Deductions,” block is simply what has been contributed for the service member to date.

The “Deferred” block will contain the amount of TSP YTD contributions that are Tax Deferred. This amount has a yearly maximum. Once the amount for that year

is reached, the system will generate a stop transaction and a remark will be created with a stop date.

For the taxable years beginning in calendar year:	The maximum dollar amounts deferred for contribution is:
2002	\$11,000
2003	\$12,000
2004	\$13,000
2005	\$14,000
2006 and thereafter	\$15,000

The “Exempt” block will contain the amount of TSP YTD contributions that are tax exempt. The maximum has been set at \$40,000 yearly. Whenever TSP contributions and loan payments are taken, a remark will be reflected in the “Deductions” block of the LES.

Whenever a member is refunded TSP loan payment and any TSP contribution, a remark of the amount will be displayed in the “Entitlements” block of the LES.

In order to accommodate the TSP data,

the LES will be modified to extend the remarks area to the bottom of the page and expand to accept 75 lines of remarks.

Also, there are 2 new blocks that will advise the service member of their retirement status. These blocks are located on the far right side of the document, under the “EOM Pay” block.

“DIEMS” block: Date Initially Entered Military Service. This date is used solely to establish which retirement plan a member is under. Members with a DIEMS date prior to September 8, 1980, are under the final pay retirement plan. Members with a DIEMS date of September 8, 1980 through July 31, 1986, are under the High-3 retirement plan. Members with a DIEMS date of August 1, 1986 or later, were initially under the REDUX retirement plan. However, this was changed by law in October 2000, when they were placed under the High-3 plan, with the option to return to the REDUX plan. In consideration of making this election, they become entitled to a \$30,000 Career Service Bonus.

The data in this block comes from PERSCOM. DFAS is not responsible for the accuracy of this data. If a member feels that the DIEMS date shown in this block is

erroneous, they must see their local servicing Personnel Office for corrective action.

“Ret Plan” block will indicate the retirement plan a member is under, based on the DIEMS Date shown in the preceding block. The block will show one of the following plans, based on the DIEMS date:

Final Pay: DIEMS date prior to September 8, 1980

High-3: DIEMS date of September 8, 1980 through July 31, 1986 or a member with a DIEMS date of August 1, 1986 or later that has decided to stay with the HIGH-3 plan.

REDUX: DIEMS date of August 1, 1986 or later and the member has elected to switch back to REDUX and receive the Career Status Bonus.

Choice: Members with a DIEMS date of August 1, 1986 or later that have not yet made a decision about remaining with High-3 or switching back to REDUX.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Helping Hands bring bright Christmas

Members of the Fort Sam Houston commands gather to celebrate the completion of the Holiday Helping Hands donation drive that collected more than \$15,000 worth of toys for distribution to the Fort Sam Houston community. Volunteers delivered toy collection boxes to various building sites and manned a gift-wrapping operation to support the program.

January Promotions

The following promotions are announced effective Jan. 2002:

To Colonel:

Burton Briggs
James Granger
Ann Richardson

To Lieutenant Colonel:

Richard Colley
August Harder
Donna Whittaker

To Major:

Brian Benham
Efrain Delacruz
Laura Elliott
Laura Feider
Robert Goodman
Harold Houghton
Michael Hurtado
Michael Migliara
Brett Niles
Travis Nowak
Katherine Taylor-Baker

To Captain:

James Hall
Susan Stunja
Heidi Weaver

To 1st Lieutenant:

Erin McLaughlin
Kourtney Owens

To Chief Warrant Officer Three:

Daniel Dagsaan

To Master Sergeant:

Samuel Adams
Gregory Branch
Carlos Hernandez
Donald Keys
Juanita Krueger
Kenneth Luther

To Sergeant 1st Class:

Laura Andrick
Wayne Angelito
Kevin Boatman
Eric Buckman
Miles Duncil
Roy Handy
Gregory Holstein
Christopher Kuklock
Denver Mantooth
Ricky Melson
Lester Mitchell
Melissa Newbell
Shannon Peck
Pedro Perez
Jeffrey Prouty
Joshua Quillin
Thomas Reed
Omar Rojas
Jay Shelton

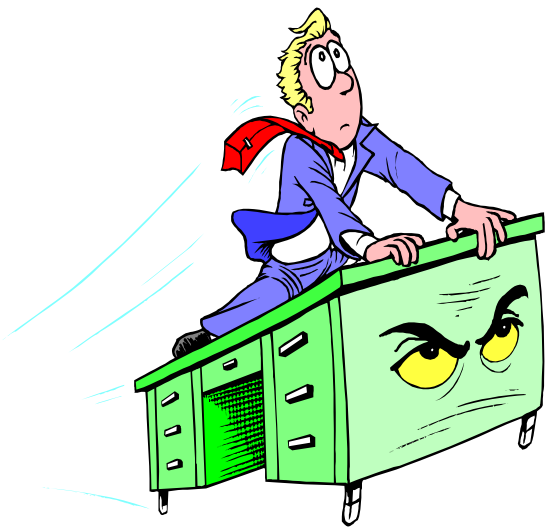
Shawton Thomas
Penny Walls

To Staff Sergeant:

Archie Breaux
Luther Bynum
Marty Cooper
Tony Flanagan
Edward Hawley
Maire Hunt
Blas Loya, Jr.
Kenneth Marshall
Ulysses Ruiz
Virley Sessions
Leslie Tener
Violeta Valdez

To Sergeant:

Jacolbi Thomas



Don't run with scissors, other office safety tips

This topic discusses safety, health, and fire protection requirements for administrative areas, such as an office, classroom, building, or area in which a person or group of persons conduct or participate in work of an administrative, clerical, instructional, or professional nature. Injuries don't just happen in industrial areas only. Each year, office workers experience thousands of injuries — fractures, strains, dislocations, and contusions — in the relatively "safe" environments of their workplace.

To avoid being involved in an accident at work, extend your awareness to the office environment. Look for ways you could get injured in the office. For example, take the chair you're sitting in. Is it in good condition? Has it been properly adjusted to prevent back strain? What about the rest of your furniture? How are your housekeeping practices? When was the last time you inspected your work area for tripping hazards, distractions, etc. that may contribute to a mishap?

If it has been awhile, inspect your area today. Take immediate action to correct any hazards you may find during your inspection. By taking action, you reduce your chance of being involved in a mishap.

For further information, access the "Supervisor's Safety Guide" online at http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/iso/Supervisors_guide.htm

Topics covered in detail are:

- Human Factors

- Housekeeping
 - Walking Surfaces, Working Surfaces Aisles, and Passageways
 - Doors
 - Means of Egress
 - Signs and Tags
 - Furniture and Equipment
- Hazards
- Rules for Handling and Lifting
 - Hand Tools
 - Office Machinery
 - Video Display Terminals (VDTs)
- First Aid
- Additional Safety Tips:**
- Never remove a staple with your fingertips. Use a staple remover.
 - Do not store sharp objects haphazardly in a drawer. Store scissors, letter openers, razor blades, thumbtacks, etc., so they do not present a hazard.
 - Do not keep sharpened pencils stored points-up in a cup or other container. You could impale part of your hand on the points.
 - Use a finger guard when leafing through a pile of paper.
 - When opening a stack of envelopes, use a letter opener rather than your finger.
 - Whenever you get any kind of chemical on your hands, such as toner or stamp pad ink, take care not to rub your eyes.
 - When working with certain chemicals, such as photocopier chemicals, wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - Also read all labels and review the chemical's Material Safety Data Sheet.
 - When carrying a pencil, scissors, or any other sharp object, always keep the point down.

MTMC improves moves for soldiers

Changes are coming in the way the Military Traffic Management Command administers the moves of the nation's military service members.

"We are changing the processes that fundamentally affect how service members move," said Lt. Col. Patty Hunt, Army deputy chief of staff for passenger and personal property. "These changes go to the core of the way we conduct business. These, combined with lessons learned from our pilot experience, will represent a major difference in the future program and the automation to support that program."

Each year, MTMC moves more than 500,000 service members. The changes could be in place as early as spring — in time for the busy summer moving surge.

Changes will come in two broad areas — faster deliveries and higher qualification standards to move personal property.

MTMC is decreasing the time allowed for the delivery of service members' personal property in international moves, said Richard Morrow, traffic management specialist. "We're analyzing all channels and codes of service in an

effort to identify opportunities to reduce transit times," he said. "This will represent changes — big and small — in the amount of time a service member has to wait for his or her property to arrive at the next duty location."

The changes probably result in at least a 15 percent drop in time allowed for a mover to complete the personal property shipment, he said. For example, 66 days is the current time allowed to ship a service member's household goods from Fort Hood, Texas, to Kaiserslautern, Germany. The proposed changes would cut that time to 54 days, or 18 percent.

In a related initiative, the command is increasing the standards required to qualify as a DoD personal property carrier. "Each carrier must reapply under the new standard to remain an approved Department of Defense carrier," said Sylvia Walker, traffic management specialist.

The revised standards call for carriers to meet higher financial reporting and operating standards, including an increased cargo liability insurance and maintenance of a performance bond for domestic moves.

Everybody wins big in Holiday Helping Hands

By Edward Rivera
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

In what one would call a full-court frenzy, eight teams met at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center on Fort Sam Houston to support the Holiday Helping Hands program by engaging in a basketball tournament, Dec. 13.

The double elimination tourney pitted teams comprised of civilians, junior enlisted and officers, senior enlisted and officers, two teams from the 187th Medical Battalion and Morale Welfare and Recreation.

“Although we lost, it was a worth while venture and we are ready to do it again next year,” said Margaret McKenzie, marketing coordinator Recreation Fitness

Division and MWR team member. Competition was fierce with some games going into overtime. But, all players were winners donating their time, talents, money and gifts for the chaplain’s Holiday Helping Hands program. The fast-break filled games provided excitement and camaraderie for all who participated and all who came to cheer their team on. Finishing on top was a team of Medical Command civilians over the team made up of junior enlisted soldiers. “We collected 825 toys and more than \$600 in gifts for the program,” said Sgt. Elizabeth Wilkins, tournament coordinator. “Everything worked out very well, we got more donations than we expected.”



Two teams square off during the Holiday Helping Hands basketball tournament at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center on Fort Sam Houston. The Holiday Helping Hands program provides local military families with food, gifts and toys during the Christmas holiday.



Photos by Edward Rivera
Sgt. Eric Dahlgren adds to the many gifts collected by the Holiday Helping Hands basketball tournament participants and spectators at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center on Fort Sam Houston.

Rodriguez announces new base closure committee

Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez joined Mayor Ed Garza and other prominent city officials to announce the formation of a new City of San Antonio task force commissioned to prepare Military City, USA for a new round of base closures in 2005. Earlier this year, Congressman Rodriguez wrote Mayor Garza to suggest the formation of such a task force, which will bring city officials, together with local chambers of commerce, labor organizations, and other interested parties to monitor the Base Realignment and Closure process, develop options, and plan for the future of our military institutions in San Antonio.

“The clock is ticking,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “With the passage of the 2002 Defense Authorization Bill, San Antonio is under the gun. We need to get to work, and I am pleased Mayor Garza is leading this fight.”

The 2002 Defense bill authorized a new round of base closures, beginning in 2005. San Antonio, with its large military presence, has reason to take action to remain one step ahead of the Defense Department’s military installation chopping block and position area

bases to receive new missions.

“BRAC is a challenge but also an opportunity to showcase San Antonio as a center for innovation and military-civilian partnerships,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “Under the 2005 deadline, we must seize the opportunities to grow our military partnerships, to give new meaning to Military City USA. And as a city, we must be prepared to invest in these partnerships to enhance growth potential and increase our chances of not only keeping what we have but ending up ahead.”

“The BRAC process is designed to modernize our armed forces and to save taxpayer dollars,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “But there are other options available to achieve the same goals. If the Defense Department is shooting for a cost efficient, resource effective military base, the Brooks City Base concept — developed right here in Military City USA — is the model by which other cost saving measures should be evaluated. And there’s no reason we can’t utilize similar measures at other local military installations.

Congress passes bill to assist children of military personnel

Based on efforts by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, Congress passed legislation, HR 3216, which would ensure eligibility for free and reduced priced school meals for children of military families living in privatized housing. More than one quarter of all military families depend on free and reduced priced meals for their children, but an accounting glitch in the military’s privatized family housing program has rendered more than 9,700 children of lower grade personnel ineligible for free or reduced price meals at school. In addition to correcting this inequity, HR 3216 would also prevent the loss of millions of dollars in state and federal education, nutrition, and technology matching funds for the school districts that teach

affected military children.

“As our Armed Forces march into battle to fight terrorism abroad, now is not the time to be cutting benefits for the lowest ranking service members,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “ This bill ensures that bureaucratic accounting regulations which guide the military’s privatized family housing program do not penalize military children and the schools they attend.”

The Department of Defense employs different accounting standards when computing earnings by military families living in privatized housing and military families living in traditional on-base housing.

For families residing in privatized housing, the result is an inflated estimate of a family’s true income. And in many cases, this inflated level disqualifies children from the free and reduced priced meal program.

The impact of this accounting glitch extends well beyond individual families. “For schools across America this means a reduction in the education, nutrition, and technology programs which base their funding on the number of children eligible for the free and reduced meal program,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “In San Antonio, the Lackland Independent School District is losing more than \$100,000 due to this problem. Money that could be used to hire teacher aids to improve the education of military children.”

Earlier this year, Congressman Rodriguez introduced HR 3082 to address the inherent inequities in the military’s privatized family housing program with a permanent adjustment to the military’s accounting procedures. In order to avoid budget scoring obstacles and to ensure quick passage of the bill, Congressman Mike Castle, chairman of the House Education Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, repackaged the Rodriguez legislation, reducing the adjustments to a two-year period. This temporary relief will allow the 108th Congress the opportunity to fashion a permanent fix during the re-authorization process for the free and reduced meal program.

HR 3216 has been referred to the Senate for consideration.



As Fort Sam Houston firefighters prepare to evacuate an accident victim, the clearing yellow haze reveals the wreckage of a delivery truck in the background.

A Fort Sam Houston firefighter simulates decontaminating crash victims after they are removed from the immediate crash sight.



After decontamination, medical technicians triage a crash victim.

Story & Photos by Edward Riv



Left: Rescue and emergency medical technicians load injured members onto ambulances for transport to Brooke Army Medical Center. **Above:** Emergency medical technicians evaluate an accident victim for transport to Brooke Army Medical Center. **Below:** A severely injured soldier lays unconscious by the crashed wreckage of a helicopter.



Exercise hones Fort Sam Houston mass casualty skills

December 17, started out like a quiet Monday morning, but for a group of soldiers training near the 228th Combat Support Hospital it would become a nightmare. A helicopter declaring an in flight emergency diverted to the Fort Sam Houston helipad but didn't make it, crashing into a delivery truck. The explosion and debris rained on the training soldiers causing many to be injured.

But if your wondering why you didn't hear about this accident on the evening news, it's because it didn't really happen. It was a mass casualty exercise conducted by the Fort Sam Houston Emergency Operation Center to evaluate all the post's emergency responders.

"We worked out the scenario so that every one who would respond could participate in the exercise," said Maj. Paul

Messenger, Plans and Operations officer for the post Emergency Operations Center.

The exercise sent the post's emergency responders into action. Military police and firefighters were put to the test in dealing with hazardous materials. Although the delivery truck involved was carrying common chemicals, with a helicopter on fire nearby it posed a threat to the chemicals' stability.

"Firefighters had to use caution in approaching the fire and take precautions in evacuating the injured," said Messenger.

The exercise covered many post agencies and procedures from emergency responses through processing dead and wounded. Commanders even had to contend with a television news team covering a story in the area.

According to Provost Marshal, Lt. Col. Jessie Goggins the

realism of the exercise provided military policeman with excellent training opportunities. "Although we have trained for anything since September 11, this exercise gave us a good look at how we're doing," said Goggins.

The exercise that tested everything from the first notification through processing at Brooke Army Medical Center didn't catch anyone off guard. Already at a heightened sense of awareness, units responded quickly and effectively to handle the situation.

"Overall the exercise went well and we will be able to take a close look at how we handle this type of emergency," said Messenger. "Although we haven't completed our evaluations, we are ready to make any adjustments in order to improve our processes."

DoD, VA find Lou Gehrig’s Disease in Gulf War vets

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

A large epidemiological study conducted by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs found preliminary evidence that Persian Gulf War veterans are nearly twice as likely as their non-deployed counterparts to develop Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The disease, amyotrophic (am-ee-o-trow-phyic) lateralsclerosis, or ALS, is often called Lou Gehrig’s disease because the baseball star died from it. It’s a fatal neurological disease that destroys the nerve cells that control muscle movement. Scientists don’t know what causes ALS, and there is no cure for it.

DoD provided the lion’s share of the money for the \$1.3 million jointly funded study, which began in March 2000.

The investigation involved nearly 700,000 service members who served in Southwest Asia during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the period Aug. 2, 1990 and July 31, 1991. More than 1.8 million service members who did not deploy to the Persian Gulf were also interviewed.

“We found 40 cases of Lou Gehrig’s disease among veterans who served in the Gulf area — almost twice as many compared to those who didn’t serve in the gulf,” said VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. About half of the 40 veterans have died. “These findings are of great concern and warrant further study,” Principi noted at a Washington press conference earlier last month. “I intend to make certain that VA’s medical resources and research capabilities are fully focused on this issue.”

He emphasized that VA will compensate Desert Shield and Desert Storm veterans with ALS. “And we’ll do so quickly,” he said. “We’ll immediately

contact those who were identified by the study and will help them to file new claims or prosecute existing claims — and we’ll pay benefits retroactively to the date their claims are filed,” Principi said.

VA is moving so fast because veterans who have contracted the disease can’t wait for the peer review process to be completed, the secretary said. “They need help now, and we’ll offer it to them,” he said.

Lou Gehrig’s is a degenerative disease of the nervous system affecting the brain cells that carry impulses from the brain and spinal cord to the muscles. The disorder results in muscular weakness and the progressive wasting of muscles. The problem usually starts in the hands and arms and then spreads to other parts of the body. Patients eventually have difficulty speaking, swallowing and breathing.

Early symptoms include slight muscle weakness, clumsy hand movements and difficulty performing tasks that require delicate movements of the fingers or hands. Veterans afflicted with the disease can also experience weakness of the lips and impairment of the tongue, mouth or voice box. Other symptoms include uncontrollable twitching of muscles, stiffness in the legs, and coughing.

Death usually follows diagnosis within three to five years. VA health officials said even with the increased diagnosis among Gulf War veterans, the disease is extremely rare, affecting only about one in 25,000 people. Among Gulf War veterans, it’s one in 17,500. There’s no evidence about higher rates of ALS among other groups of veterans.

However, researchers plan to explore the possibility in later studies, officials said.

VA is providing free medical care and disability compensation for veterans who have the disease. Officials urge veterans

or family members who believe they qualify to contact their nearest VA medical center, regional office or benefits office.

NOTE: To locate the nearest VA facility, go online to

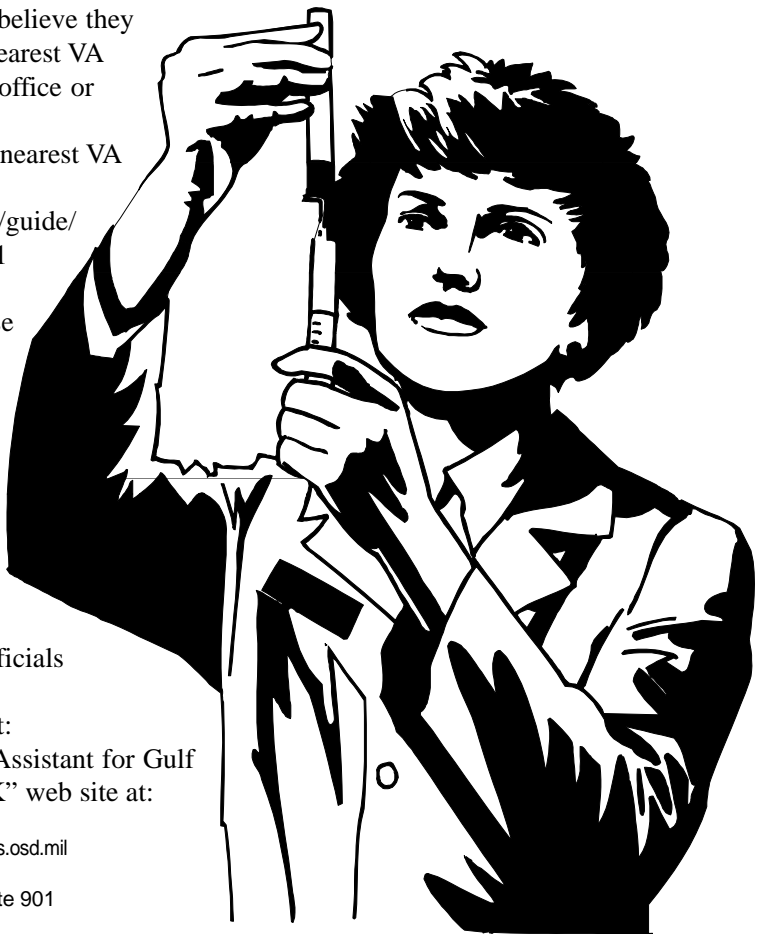
<http://www.va.gov/sta/guide/division.asp?divisionId=1>

Survivors of veterans who died from the disease are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation, enrollment in VA’s healthcare program for survivors, educational assistance and vocational assistance, among other benefits, officials said.

Related site of Interest:

Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses “GulfLINK” web site at:

<http://www.gulflink.osd.mil/>
E-mail: special-assistant@gwillness.osd.mil
Phone: (800) 497-6261
Mail: 5113 Leesburg Pike Suite 901
Falls Church, Virginia 22041



Gulf War veterans receive assistance

Active duty military personnel with questions or concerns about their service in the Persian Gulf region should contact their commanding officer or call the Department of Defense (DoD) Gulf War Veterans Hotline (1-800-497-6261).

Gulf War veterans with concerns about their health should contact the nearest VA medical center. The telephone number can be found in the local telephone directory under Department of Veterans Affairs in the “U.S. Government” listings. A Persian Gulf Registry examination will be offered. Treatment will be provided to eligible veterans.

Gulf War veterans in need of marital/family counseling should contact the nearest VA medical center or VA vet center. For additional information, call the VA Gulf War Information Helpline at 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387).

Gulf War veterans seeking disability compensation for illnesses incurred in or aggravated by military service should contact a Veterans Benefits Counselor at the nearest VA regional office of health care facility or call the VA Gulf War Information Helpline at 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387).

Gulf War veterans interested in learning about the wide range of benefit programs administered by the VA should contact a Veterans Benefits Counselor at the nearest VA regional office or health care facility or call the VA Gulf War Information Helpline at 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387).

Individuals with first-hand information about “incidents” that occurred in the theater of operations during the Gulf War and that may be related to health problems experienced by individuals who served in the War should call the DoD “Incidents” Hotline at 1-800-472-6719.

Other veterans and military service organizations:

National veterans and military service organizations provide assistance and representation for millions of veterans, servicemembers and their families through worldwide networks.

Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI) personnel meet regularly with representatives of these organizations. The meetings give OSAGWI an opportunity to provide an update of OSAGWI activities and other actions in DoD for discussion with their membership. In turn, OSAGWI receives feedback and requests for information on topics of interest to their members. A recap of the meetings along with briefing slides and related information materials are available on the DeploymentLINK web site — <http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil>

OSAGWI also participates in activities hosted by the veterans and military service offices. An activity calendar is available on the DeploymentLINK web site at

http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/current_issues/vso_mso/current_month.shtml

BAMC offers health courses

The Brooke Army Medical Center Health Promotion Center announces the following January 2002 Class Schedule:

Class	Date	Time
Breast and GYN Cancer Support Group	2	9:30-11 a.m.
Cholesterol and Lipids	7	9-11:30 a.m.
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	7	1-4 p.m.
Diabetes Education	8	12:45-4 p.m.
Office Yoga	9	Noon-1 p.m.
Fibromyalgia Self-Help Session 1	9	1-4 p.m.
Tobacco Cessation “Readiness to Change”	10	9-11 a.m.
Weight Management	10	8:30-10 a.m.
Self Care and Health (OTCs)	10	9-11 a.m.
Stress Management	15	10-11:30 a.m.
Arthritis	15	9:30-11 a.m.
Diabetes Education	15	12:45-4 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	16	9 a. m.-Noon
Office Yoga	16	Noon-1 p.m.
Body Fat Testing	18	8-11 a.m.
Office Yoga	23	Noon-1 p.m.
Osteoporosis	23	6-7 p.m.
Self Care and Health (OTCs)	24	1-3 p.m.
Breast Health	25	11 a.m.-Noon
Cholesterol and Lipids	28	9-11:30 a.m.
Asthma Part 1	28	1-3 p.m.
Weight Management	28	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	29	12:45-4 p.m.
Tobacco Cessation “Readiness to Change”	29	5:30-7 p.m.
Office Yoga	30	Noon-1 p.m.
Back Pain	31	2-3:30 p.m.

Note: Call Health Promotion Center at 916-3352 to register for all classes, except Diabetes Education, Weight Management, and Back Pain. To register for Diabetes Education call Internal Medicine Clinic at 916-0840 (even if you are in TRICARE Prime), select option 2. To register for Weight Management call Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525. To register for Back Pain call Physical Therapy at 916-1920. To register for Fibromyalgia call Behavioral Medicine Clinic (Dr. Vriend) at 916-5349.

Fort Sam Houston hosts mini AFAP conference

By **Connie Fretwell**
Special to the News Leader

On December 5, 2001, delegates, subject matter experts and a facilitation team met to work community issues presented to the Army Family Action Plan forum. Col. Douglas Biggerstaff, garrison commander, opened the conference by emphasizing the importance the AFAP process and the commitment to Army community issues and resolutions made by the delegates in attendance.

Fourteen issues were submitted from the Fort Sam Houston community and were reviewed and prioritized by their importance to the local and the worldwide military community. The delegation reviewing the issues was composed of active duty, family members, civilians, retirees, teen family members, dual military families, single soldiers, single parent military and reserve soldiers.

Representatives from BAMC, Housing, Transportation, Defense Military Pay

Office, Child and Youth Services, Human Resources, Community Activities, TRICARE and the Civilian Personnel Office fielded questions from the delegates on issues of concern in their specific areas. Upon answering questions the delegates and facilitation team, led by Marlene Nash, researched the issues to make certain they had not been addressed in a prior AFAP forum. If a similar issue was presented, the status of the earlier AFAP issue was noted and the appropriate action taken.

Delegates then reworked the top three issues preparing them for submission to the next level in the AFAP process. Issues were re-titled, the problem restated and recommendations for solutions re-framed to meet the AFAP criteria, without losing the intent of the original submission.

At the end of the day, the top three issues prioritized by this AFAP delegation were:

1. Supplemental Income for National

Guard and Reserve Component soldiers when put on Active Duty status.

2. Temporary living expenses for temporarily displaced families within the Continental United States.

3. Excessive waiting times in the Brooke Army Medical Center Emergency Room.

The remaining 11 issues will be sent at the appropriate levels. Local issues will be forwarded to the garrison commander for resolution. Issues resolved will be forwarded to the Major Army Command level and global issues will be forwarded to the Department of the Army. A Department of the Army level AFAP Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in March 2002. There, delegates from every Army installation will meet, prioritize their top issues and forward them to the General Officers Steering Committee for resolution.

An AFAP Issues Book will be compiled to inform military communities

of the status of each issue presented at the Washington conference. The status of any issue could be completed, active or unattainable. If the steering committee determines a solution to a problem cannot be attained at that time it can be resubmitted, if necessary, after a period of three years.

Jim Evetts, Director, Community Activities Business Center received the issues from the delegation and assured members their work is taken seriously by the Army. He also stated the delegates and the community would receive feedback on the status of all issues. Disposition of the remaining 11 issues will be published in a future edition of the News Leader. The status of the top three issues will be published as they are worked at the appropriate levels. For more information on issues in their final form, contact Kim Miller, Army Community Service at 221-2705.

Soldier Show audition deadline extended

The deadline for audition submissions to the U.S. Army Soldier Show is quickly approaching. The U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center's Entertainment Division staff has received many inquiries, but very few actual audition packages.

The events of Sept. 11 tasked units heavily and soldiers may have not had time to complete their input. Therefore, while the official deadline was December 31, 2001, Army Entertainment Division officials have extended a grace period

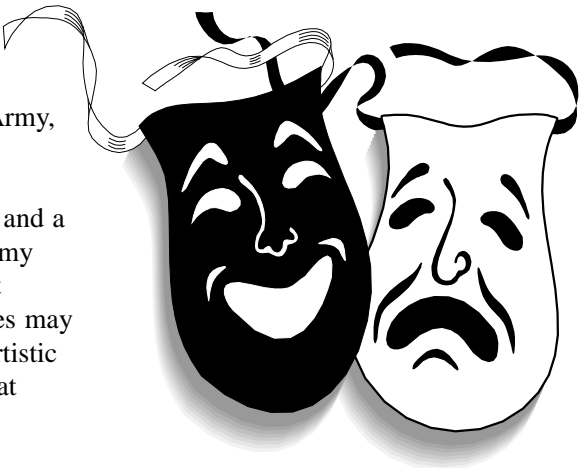
until Jan. 15 to accommodate soldiers who need extra time to get their submissions together and mailed.

In 2001, this Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program entertained more than 110,000 people in a highly successful season that brought military audiences a much-needed 90 minutes of escape to music and fantasy following 9-11.

The 2002 season is the 19th year of the modern Soldier Show, a tradition of "entertainment for the soldier, by the soldier" established during World War I.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is an opportunity for talented soldiers to represent their units, installations and the United States Army, in a show of unity, teamwork and a testament to American resilience.

For audition how-to information and a sample letter of release, visit the Army Entertainment Division web page at www.armyentertainment.net. Queries may be directed to Victor M. Hurtado, artistic director, U.S. Army Soldier Show, at victor.hurtado@cfsc.army.mil.





Courtesy photo

Cole honors “Principal’s Students of the Month”

Each month Cole Jr./Sr. High School recognizes one student from each grade level for his/her outstanding attitude, citizenship, and overall contribution to the school. The students are nominated by their teachers and then one student is selected by the faculty of each grade level. The recipients for December 2001 are (left to right) Ashley Fee, 8th grade; Krista Leeds, 12th grade; and Brandon Childers, 10th grade; Megan Fletcher, 11th grade; Caroline Gerth, 9th grade; and Analise Medina, 7th grade.

**Fort Sam Houston Independent School District
Weekly Campus Activities
January 7 - 12, 2002**

**Fort Sam Houston
Elementary School**

Monday, Jan. 7
• Student Holiday/Teacher Work Day

Tuesday, Jan. 8
• Begin Third Nine Weeks

Thursday, Jan. 10
• Report Cards Go Home

Friday, Jan. 11
• Spirit Day

**Robert G. Cole Jr./
Sr. High School**

Monday, Jan. 7
• Student Holiday/Teacher Work Day
Cougar Pride Club Meeting at 3:45 p.m. –
Cole Media Center

Tuesday, Jan. 8
• Begin Fourth Six Weeks and Second
Semester
• Boys BB at Stockdale – JV - 5 p.m. /V

– 8 p.m.
• Girls BB at Stockdale – JV – 5 p.m. / V
– 6:30 p.m.
• Boys Soccer vs Antonian at Cole – 4:15
p.m.
• Impact Parents Support Meeting in
Media Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 9
• Girls Soccer vs St. Mary’s Hall at Cole
– 4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 10
• GATE Students Field Trip to Seaworld
– 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
• Boys Soccer at St. Anthony at 4:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 11
• City Invitational Swim Meet at SA
Natatorium – 11 a.m.
• Boys BB at Flatonia – JV - 5 p.m. / V –
8 p.m.
• Girls V BB at Flatonia – 6:30 p.m.
• Girls Soccer vs Southwest at Cole – 4
p.m.

TAAS testing dates announced

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School and Fort Sam Houston Elementary School students will join students across the state in taking the state-mandated Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) competency tests beginning in the spring.

Students in grades three through eight, 10, 11 and 12 will be taking all or part of the section of TAAS this spring. Students in grades four, eight, 10, 11 and 12 will take the writing portion of TAAS Feb. 19. The math and reading portions of the TAAS will be administered to grades 10, 11, and 12 on Feb. 20 and 21. Grades three, four, five, six, seven and eight will

take the math portion April 16 and reading portion on April 17.

The TAAS social studies and science portion will be administered to grade eight April 18 and 19.

Individuals who are not currently enrolled at Cole, whose last school of attendance was Cole, and who have finished all requirements for graduation except passing all sections of the TAAS test and all individuals who wish to take the TEAMS test, may register to take the appropriate section at Cole.

To register to take the test, ex-students must call Julie Coffey at 368-8739 on or before Jan. 15.

**State issues
school report**

The Texas Education Agency has issued the State of Texas 2000-01 School Report Cards for Fort Sam Houston Elementary School and Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School. The reports provide information for each campus concerning student performance and information concerning expenditures and student / teacher ratios.

A public hearing will be held in the Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School library Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the school’s report. A similar hearing at the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School will be held Jan. 16 at 4:30 p.m. in their library. The meetings will be conducted by the campus principals and members of the individual Campus Site-Based Decision-Making Teams. Parents and interested community members are invited to attend. In addition to the public hearings, parents will receive a copy of the School Report Card in the mail with their child’s semester report card.

Fort Freebies

All Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended solely for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail it to: news.leader@amedd.army.mil or fax it to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request.



For Sale: Two piece blue sectional, recliner on one side, double bed folds out, \$100. Call 654-1148.	For Sale: Five year-old house at 4203 Misty Springs, 1,500 sq. ft., minutes from Fort Sam Houston and Brooks Air Force Base, \$70,000 obo. Call 661-2447 or 916-5370.	receiver/amplifier, \$199. Call 494-2213.
For Sale: 1990 Buick Reatta, mint cond., 88K original miles, \$5,900. Call 271-3596.	For Sale: Two sets of women's BDUs size medium/regular, \$30 per set. 1 pair of new (never worn) Gotez type men's boots size 9 1/2, \$75 obo. Call 212-7590.	(150 ft.) with two gates, eight corner poles and more, \$200 obo. Call 212-7590.
For Sale: Yamaha RX-V870 stereo surround sound	For Sale: Four-foot chain link fence	

Career Clips

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.



Safety and Environment Administrative Assistant. San Antonio. Generates management reports from a database. Other responsibilities include filing, data entry, safety record keeping, and updating Material Safety Data Sheets.

Office Service Associate. Austin. Acceptable candidate will be responsible for all phases of an office center. Will prioritize copy request, copy jobs, quality assurance, incoming/outgoing faces, mail processing and delivery.

Medical Writers. San Antonio. Manage and train medical writing department staff, adheres to project on schedule. Actively participates in writing all types of pharmaceutical regulatory documents of oncology clinical trials.

Computer Operator (PT). San Antonio. Part time evening hours with a stable firm. Responsibilities will include performing nightly processing functions to update and maintain systems and applications, performing backup and routine software maintenance and file transfers.

Sports Shorts

Intramural Racquet Ball

Letters of Intent due Feb. 4. Coaches meeting will be held on Feb. 7 at 1 p.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts Feb. 19.

Intramural Volleyball

Letters of Intent due Feb. 4. Coaches meeting will be held on Feb. 6 at 1 p.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Feb. 11.

Intramural Spring Flag Football

Letters of Intent due Feb. 11. Coaches meeting will be held on Feb. 15 at 1 p.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts Feb. 25.

Intramural Spring Softball

Letters of Intent due March 15. Coaches meeting will be held on March 25 at 1 p.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. League starts April 8.

For more information on the above listed sports, contact Earl Young at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-1180 or e-mail him at Earl.Young@cen.amedd.army.mil.

Men and women's varsity softball coaches wanted

Send resume to Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Wilson Rd. Bldg. 320. Fort Sam Houston TX 78234, or call Earl Young at 221-1180 for more information.

Aerobics classes offered Monday - Saturday

Classes include: Water Fitness, Senior Fitness, Salsa Plus, Kick-Box Boot Camp, Power Pump, Cardio Step, Kick/Step Combo, Step I, Low Impact Step and Body Sculpture and Abs. Classes are \$2 each or \$24 for 16. Call 221-1234 or stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center for a complete schedule.



Duathlon Series one, two and three

"Do Your First Du in 2002" Come run with us. Starting Jan. 6 the first event 2M/10M/2M; second event Jan. 27 5K/10M/5K, and third event Feb. 5K/20K/5K. All will start at Salado Park at W.W. White and Nursery Roads. Minimum participation is 30 for each event. The cost is \$25 per person and \$35 late registration fee. Checks should be made payable to IMWRF or The Run Away Club. For more information call John Purnell at 826-1888 or the Brought Fitness Center at 221-1234.



Community events

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents "Towards Zero," Jan. 9 – Feb. 9

The Agatha Christie mystery "Towards Zero" begins Jan. 9 through Feb. 9 at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Bldg. 2652 Harney Road, Fort Sam Houston. For ticket information and reservations, call 222-9694.

Fort Sam Houston ISD Board meeting set for Jan. 10

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet on Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon for a Workshop - Board Member Training presented by the Education Service Center, Region 20 Field Service Agent (required 3 hour training), and for a Special Board Meeting for Superintendent Evaluation at 12:30 p.m., at the Fort Sam Houston ISD Professional Development Center, 1908 Winans Road, San Antonio, Texas.

Old Crows monthly luncheon, Jan. 11

The Billy Mitchell Chapter-Association of the Old Crows and the Alamo Chapter, AFCEA will hold their monthly speaker luncheon on Jan. 11 at Dave's and Buster's restaurant, Loop 410 and I-10 by the Cross Roads Mall. Guest speaker is Dr. Kenneth A. Lysiak, Southwest Research Institute. For reservations call Marsha Ocain at 732-7697 or visit www.bmcaoc.org web site.

Corpus Christi Marriage Retreat set for Jan. 11 through 13

The Chaplain Family Life Center is sponsoring a Marriage Retreat at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi on January 11, 12 and 13, 2002. For more information call Spc. Newlun at 221-5426 or e-mail at Ethan.Newlun@cen.amedd.army.mil

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Storytime, Jan. 14

The Oakwell Branch Library invites children ages 4 to 8 and their accompanying adults to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Storytime on Jan. 14 from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The program will feature a short biography of Dr. King and stories highlighting the joyous diversity of the world's children. The event is free and the no registration is required. The Oakwell Branch Library is located at 4134 Harry Wurzbach Road. For information call 828-2569.

Officers' Civilian Spouses Club luncheon, Jan. 15

Joint the members of the Officers' Civilian Spouses Club White Elephant Silent Auction on Jan. 15. The auction will take place Prior to the regular program during the OCS Club luncheon, which begins at 11 a.m. at the Officers' Club. Everyone is asked to donate one item. Donations can be given to any board member 8 or may be dropped off at the OCSC board meeting on Jan. 8. To make your luncheon reservations call Brenda Hebron at 444-0259 or Karen Cole at 499-1047 no later than Jan. 11.

Comptrollers to hold monthly luncheon, Jan. 16

The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a monthly luncheon on Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little Red Barn, 1836 S. Hackberry. John Kauth, CPA, will be the guest speaker and will discuss "Stock Market Performance in the Wake of Turbulent Times" and "A Way to Finance Your Child's Education Tax-Free". The local charity will be the ALS Association. For reservations or more

information, call Maj. Stephen Kent, 221-2870.

Technology Expo at Officers' Club, Jan. 31

The Fort Sam Houston Technology Expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Persian Room at the Officers' Club. The no-cost Expo is open to all Fort Sam Houston personnel and contractors. There will be more than 20 different industry leading manufacturers, developers and systems integrators exhibiting the latest in Knowledge Management Solutions, Data Warehousing, Network Operations Services, Web and Enterprise Content Management, Information Assurance and Security, Mobile Computing Solutions, Wireless Networking/Computing, Collaboration Tools, Hardware, Software and More. The Expo is hosted by Information Technology Business Center for more information call (301) 596-8899 extension 230.

Volunteers needed

Calling all single soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee is established at an installation to furnish soldier input to the commander, who uses committee recommendations as the basis for improving single soldier MWR programs and enhancing the quality of life.

All single soldiers are welcome to attend the first meeting of the month. The second meeting is reserved for duty appointed representatives. For more information, please contact the current BOSS president Spc. Jeffrey Briere at 637-2229 or Sgt. Lorna Lewis 916-3344.

American Red Cross volunteers needed

The American people rely on the American Red Cross and its Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) to stay in touch with those in the serving in the military. The San Antonio Red Cross is meeting the challenge of increased AFES cases by training volunteers to help with emergency communications between military personnel and their families. The commitment for a volunteer is a minimum of four hours per week for the next six months. For information about classes in AFES case work, call 224-5151 extension 273.

More Child Advocates volunteers needed

Child Advocates San Antonio is looking for volunteers to train as advocates for abused children. Training classes begin Feb. 26. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. For information, call 22-7070.

Training will be held at the CASA office, 406 San Pedro, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 23, and 28 and Feb. 6. Applicants must be 21 years or older, pass a background and reference check and be interviewed by a CASA advocate supervisor. CASA, a United Way agency, served 645 abused children in Bexar County last year.

San Antonio seeks volunteers

As the holiday season goes into full gear, many people reflect on the happenings of the year and give thanks for their blessings. The United Way of San Antonio Volunteer Center would like to express their appreciation for support rendered during Days of Caring 2001. However, they are still looking for volunteer for ongoing programs. The Volunteer Center is looking for volunteers for the following dates:

Jan. 7:

Christian Assistance Ministry needs 5 volunteers to assist with the opening of their new center.

Jan. 26:

San Antonio Urban Ministries needs 6 volunteers to paint the inside their office building.

Habitat for Humanity requires 25 volunteers to assist with building a home .

To volunteer, e-mail ecantu@unitedwaysatx.org

Basketball stars sought for summer camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp 2002. The camp is for boys and girls ages 10 through 19. Past participants include

Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter and more. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. The Camp is by invitation only. For a free brochure, call (704) 568-6801.

In the classroom

Learn more about benefits

Soldiers whose Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) is on or after August 1, 1986, should attend a briefing on the Career Status Bonus, Reduced Retirement Plan and Thrift Savings Plan.

Transition Services offers monthly briefings in Bldg. 2267 at 9 a.m. on the following dates: Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr 16, May 14, June 11, July 16, Aug. 13 and Sept. 17, 2002.

To attend a briefing or obtain more information, call 221-2467 or 221-0936.

TSP now available to soldiers.

Soldiers have an opportunity to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan. The plan allows soldiers to invest their own money and offers tax deferral advantages similar to those in a 401(K). TSP participation is voluntary and not automatic. Open season for those soldiers currently on active duty and who meet eligibility requirements is now through January 31, 2002. Call 1-877-276-9287 for information.

English as a Second Language classes

ESL classes are held on Fort Sam Houston at the Roadrunner Community Center and are free. They are designed especially for foreign-born spouses to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Classes are appropriate for beginner, intermediate and advanced students with individualized group instruction. Classes are sponsored by the Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program, and the Region 20 Education Center. To register call 221-2418.

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Visit Child and Youth Services library

The Fort Sam Houston community is invited to visit the Child and Youth Services Community Resource Library located in Bldg. 2797. The library has an array of educational and developmentally age appropriate resource materials for loan. Home schooling parents in the community are encouraged to utilize our library. For additional information call Judith Williford at 221-9658.

Apply for the Retired Officers Association scholarship

Military children of active duty service members are eligible to apply for the Retired Officers Association Scholarship program. Students must be under age 24 and working their first undergraduate degree. Grants are based on scholastic merit and leadership qualities, not financial need. No essay is required in the application. TROA membership is not a requirement. To apply visit the web site: www.troa.org., look for "Educational Aid" on the opening page of the TROA web site. Deadline for submission is midnight of March 1, 2002.

Become a certified teacher and earn a masters degree at St. Mary's

St. Mary's University will offer graduate courses starting Jan. 16 at Fort Sam Houston. Courses will allow students to be teacher certified in Texas with 18 hours of graduate work and pursue a Master of Arts in Education or Educational Leadership at the same time. For information and dates of orientation sessions, contact the St. Mary's University Education Department at 436-3121 or Jeff Thomas, Fort Sam Houston representative at 226-3360.

Old telephone books disposal bin at Schofield and Scott roads

Southwestern Bell has placed a large recycling bin in the parking lot located at the corner of Schofield and Scott Roads now through Jan. 7 for proper disposal of old telephone books. The public is encouraged to drop their old phone books in the bin.